



SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



First, let me say thank you for opening our new newsletter, *The Compass*. With the launch of this semiannual newsletter and a new monthly e-newsletter, we will communicate regularly with our members and supporters. In this edition of *The Compass*, we will visit happenings since the all of 2014, look at what is happening now, and envision the future.

You may have noticed over the last few years that Ligonier Valley Historical Society has experienced transition, change, and growth. At the time I became the Executive Director in the autumn of 2014, the Society was in the midst of completing a Basic Strategic Plan. The Plan outlined three primary objectives which would help the Society meet the challenges faced by historical societies with small museums. These objectives included capital improvements, reorganizing leadership as well as marketing and membership campaigns. To accomplish these goals, the Society needed to raise \$200,000. During the summer of 2015, we reached that goal. In fact, we raised \$213,000. Foundations who helped us achieve our goal are listed on page 12.

In the spring of 2015, Malori Stevenson was hired to fill the Program Coordinator/Innkeeper position and Cathy Cummings became our new Business Office Coordinator. I know many of you have had the opportunity to meet and work with all three of us. If not, we hope we will get to know you soon.

Within the capital improvements objective, the restoration and painting of the exterior and interior of Compass Inn Museum was priority, then we replaced the fencing along Route 30 and added new fencing along California and Weimer Avenues. We replaced the bridge that connected our field with the Museum with one that would withstand flooding. In addition, parking areas were improved and our storage

barn received a new roof and it, too, was painted. Finally, a new sign now graces the front lawn of the Museum. For the marketing objective, a graphic design team designed new logos and created a branding guide as well as a marketing plan that includes our new newsletter, and new membership and promotional materials.

With all these accomplishments under our belt, we next focused on raising funds for technology: computers, printers, desktop publishing, and backup capabilities along with a new phone system, wireless internet service, digital camera, and a point of sale system for the Museum Shop.

That is the past, so what's happening now? Well, we are renovating our Education Room and the Museum Shop. Also, we have improved stormwater drainage off the site and we are adding enhancements, that you will not notice, to the cookhouse. When you visit this season, look to see if you can find them. Finally, we are having period appropriate clothing made by a professional.

What's in our future? The restoration of our stagecoach, an extensive website upgrade, a long-range plan, and enrollment in the American Association for State and Local History's Standards and Excellence Certification Program (StEPS) are planned in anticipation of the 50th Anniversary of Compass Inn Museum. More to come on all of this in our next newsletter.

Throughout all of this, we strive to deliver innovative, engaging, content-rich public programs and events that are mission driven and audience focused. We hope you will join us on this journey. So, we look forward to seeing you during the 2017 season that begins May 7 with Free Museum Day in the Valley.

Theresa



Photos: Bridge-Matt Stein Woodworking; Storage Barn-Klim's Roofing & JP Davis Painting; Sign-Matt Stein Woodworking & Acorn Signworks.

TASTES OF THE TOWN

On April 14, 2016 we celebrated the **25th Anniversary of the *Tastes of the Town***. And what a celebration it was! **Jason Ament** and his wonderful committee created an evening to be remembered. It was a fantastic gastronomic delight, from the food truck outside all the way through to the desserts. A new tradition was started in 2016, the **“Crowd Favorite” Award**. **Ron McDowell of The Road Toad** won the award and it proudly hangs over The Road Toad’s bar. Ron plans to be at the 2017 *Tastes* to defend his title.

The decorations were beautiful and The Cedars at Antiochian Village and Conference Center was the perfect setting. Proceeds from the event benefited the *Save Our Stagecoach* fund therefore, an ice sculpture of a stagecoach was the focal point of the room.



The party started outside as Terry Speal of Speals on Wheels served guests from his food truck.



“Crowd Favorite”
(Giant Fork) Award

Ligonier is very fortunate to have so many great eateries. We thank all who participated in 2016 and we look forward to 2017.

- Abigail's Coffeeshouse
- Carol & Dave's Roadhouse
- Connections Café
- Cool Springs Express
- Darlington Inn
- Green Gables
- Ligonier Giant Eagle
- Ligonier Tavern
- Rosalie Joio's Little Italy
- Speals on Wheels
- Table 105
- The Cedars - Antiochian Village
- The Eastwood Inn
- The Road Toad
- The Pier at Sharky's
- Warrior King Pastries

You will not want to miss the **2017 *Tastes of the Town*** to be held **April 20th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at The Cedars**.



Auctioneer Brain Carey charmed and entertained while auctioning the unique offerings.

In addition to the great food there will be miniature stagecoach races, sculptures, and more. Tickets are on sale now. They are **\$35**

for members and \$40 for non-members. Purchase them at Ligonier Valley Historical Society, Betsy’s of Ligonier, The Paper House, and Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce office. Tables for 5 to 10 guests should be reserved in advance through the **Society by calling 724-238-6818 or emailing tgrohall@compassinn.org**.

The 2017 committee is planning another exciting event. Get your tickets now, as space is limited. **Jason Ament and Glenda Dickson** are once again co-chairs with **Carla Arnone, Mary Jo Culbertson, Joanne Hartman, Lynn Johnson, Laurel Ross, Scott Sinemus, Kathy Shaulis, and Sarah Wilson** returning from 2016 along with the addition of **Barbara and Gene Kravits** to round out the committee.

In addition to the tasty food, the event also included a live auction and basket raffle of great items donated by local antique dealers and friends of the Historical Society (listed below). Finally, everyone took home a LVHS logo swag bag full of goodies that included a 25th Anniversary double old fashioned glass.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Allegory Gallery | Deb Honkus |
| Amica | Ligonier Giant Eagle |
| Anna Lynn Boutique | Lori's Embroidery |
| Arnold Palmer | Mommy Gear |
| Black Bunny | Scotty Nelson |
| Careyauctions.com | Oak Lodge |
| Delta Celi | On the Diamond Antiques |
| D's Restaurant | Peirce Park Group |
| Fat Daddy's Restaurant | Jeff Poole |
| Gerty's Attic Antiques | Post and Rail Men's Shop |
| Glenda Dickson | Scamps Toffee & Sweets |
| Graham's Antique Mall | Shakeology |
| G Squared Gallery | The Paper House |
| Grandview Stable | Truffles Antiquities at Ligonier |
| Holiday Inn Monroeville | Kelly Yoder |

We are honored to announce that **Bertram H. Judson, Baily Insurance Agency, Carolyn Imbriglia, E.W. Colborn Bus Line, Wicklow Logistics Inc., Friends of Senator Kim Ward, Karen and Jim O'Connor, and LHM Designs** were our sponsors. We sincerely thank them for their generosity.



A sellout crowd attended the 25th Anniversary of the *Tastes of the Town*.

IT'S A HOLIDAY TRADITION

Each year, for the past 34 years, the Ligonier Valley Historical Society has been an integral part of Ligonier Valley's Holiday tradition with the *Festival of Lights....the Art of Christmas Trees, Wreaths and Other Treasures*.

In 2016, the four-day *Festival* kicked off December 2nd with the "Setting the Stage" reveal party and auction. "It was a resounding success with 44 very creative Christmas themed items being presented," said co-chair **Karen O'Connor**. "We were so thrilled with the artistry of the entries," she added. Participating artists looked beyond the traditional trees and wreaths. They added dramatic flair by also decorating mantel sprays, teardrop swags, hanging half-trees and garlands. By popular vote, **Gene Kravits of Truffles Antiquities at Ligonier** won "Best in Show" for his upside down tree, "Chandelier Chic". There were so many wonderful creations; it was hard to choose just one, remarked many visitors to the *Festival*.



Gene Kravits installing "Chandelier Chic"

"This year's silent auction featured 'totally unique' opportunities and experiences," noted co-chair **Sharon Vito-McCue**. For instance, **Seven Springs Resort** stepped up to offer a two-night stay and a massage at their Trillium Spa as well as a season pass to the newly reopened **Laurel Mountain Ski Resort** and **Living Treasures Animal Park** offered a pizza party for 12 enthusiastic children including pony rides. The auction also included a personalized tour of **Kentuck Knob** by **Jim O'Connor**, a candlelit private tea for eight at **Compass Inn Museum** hosted by **Gay Wasserman** and 54 holes of golf at **Ligonier County Club, Latrobe County Club, and Champion Lakes Golf Club**.

Auction packages also included a romantic night out with tickets to a Westmoreland Symphony performance, dinner, and sweets from the **Ligonier Sweet Shop**, art classes from **Latrobe Art Center**, and handcrafted cooking implements by **Ed Appleby of Crafty Apple Forge**. Dinner and an overnight stay at **The Stone House Restaurant & Country Inn**, a Victorian dollhouse created by **Theresa Schwab**, and a restaurant and history tour of Ligonier led

by **Tom Mizikar and Sharon Vito-McCue** rounded out the silent auction offerings.

"Holiday excitement was in the air as guests were greeted by Dickens Carolers and the opportunity to have their photo taken in a sleigh in the courtyard," said co-chair **Glenda Dickson**. "We even had a festive signature drink concocted and served by guest bartender **Ron McDowell of The Road Toad**," Glenda added. The Historical Society is especially grateful to all the fabulously imaginative and talented artisans who created and donated the beautifully decorated entries and to all those generous folks who purchased them and gave them good homes. The Society is most grateful to our generous **Sponsors** who made this great event possible. We also thank all the generous **Ligonier merchants** who donated gifts, services, and gift certificates for the various raffles and the silent auction. **Sandy Podlucky of Jones Brewing Company, Smithton; Stan & Debbie Cycak, Dream Makers Weddings; Ligonier Giant Eagle and The Pie Shoppe** for donating cookies and drinks for each day of *Festival of Lights*.



Ron McDowell of The Road Toad serving his special holiday cheer.

The Society extends a special heartfelt thank you to **Lori Berreta, Butch Bellas, Kim Bellas, Justin Bellas, Julie Dolton, Mike Garland, Jim McConnell, Angela and Jim McDonnell, Joy Monticue, Pam and Terry Murphy, PJ Neid, Jim O'Connor, Linda Pershing, St Moritz Building Services, Truffles Antiquities at Ligonier, Diane Urban, Jason Widich**, and all who volunteered their time and talents to make the 2016 *Festival of Lights* a great success.

Finally, we thank our hardworking and dedicated committee members who made it all possible. Co-chairs **Sharon, Glenda and Karen** along with **Candy Bellas, MaryJo Culbertson, Cindy Purnell, Rachel Roehrig, Linda Santry, Rick Schwab, Donna Tidwell, Gay Wasserman, Ginny Widich, and Susan Woolridge**. Proceeds from the 2016 Festival of Lights benefit new and ongoing educational initiatives, core support, and the *Save Our Stagecoach* fund at **Compass Inn Museum**.

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Handcrafted Christmas Trees, Wreaths & Other Treasures transform Ligonier Town Hall's Community Room into a Holiday spectacular for all to enjoy.



Phyllis Bertok & Rich Lopretto (left) and Donna Tidwell & Tom Guier (right) stop for a photo in the sleigh before entering the party.

VOLUNTEERS COUNT

Volunteers help in so many ways. They are members of our fundraising committees, they are members of our Board of Directors, and they are docent tour guides. They help in our museum shop and with mailings and typing. They help with our collection and archives, and with gardening and yard work. Many help in multiple ways. **WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT THEM!** Therefore, we say a great **BIG THANK YOU** to all our dedicated, hardworking, and talented volunteers.

Jason Ament
 Ed Appleby
 Carla Arnone
 Carla Baldwin
 Louise Bates
 Thelma Bear
 Candi Bellas
 Kim Bellas
 Butch Bellas
 Justin Bellas
 Patrick Bochy
 Jackie Cavanaugh
 Glenn Cavanaugh
 George Conte
 Tom Conway
 Terry Coyne
 Mary Jo Culbertson
 Bob Cummings
 Julie Dolton
 Glenda Dickson
 Matt Faccenda
 Rich Fisher
 Suzanne Fisher
 Roxana Flickinger
 Rick Flickinger
 Lynn Flowers
 John Fraser
 Linda Fryman
 Mike Garland
 Michelle Gay
 Darla Hall
 Jake Hall
 Joann Hartman
 Lisa Hays
 Mary Ann Hegan
 Bruce Henderson
 Scott Henry
 Sara Hilf
 Judy Hoffer
 Carolyn Holland
 Deb Honkus
 Patricia Hudson
 Tim Hudson
 Dottie Johnson
 John Johnson

Lynn Johnson
 Ray Kinsey
 Paul Kennedy
 Patsy Kennedy
 Linda Kitchen
 Jim Koontz
 Kathy Koontz
 Rick Kunkle
 Joan Leuthner
 Gladys Light
 Laura Long
 Mary Lundquist
 Jackie McClane
 Jim McConnell
 Shawn McConville
 Jay McDonald
 Joy Monticue
 Sean Murphy
 Pam Murphy
 Terry Murphy
 Connor Murphy
 Barbara Nalle
 Scotty Nelson
 Gloria Nelson
 PJ Neid
 Karen O'Connor
 Jim O'Connor
 Linda Pershing
 Betsy Pride
 Cindy Purnell
 Don Rauscher
 Lisa Rauscher
 Michael Reese
 Bonnie Robinson
 Rachel Roehrig
 Ron Rohall
 Laurel Ross
 Evelyn Ruffing
 Linda Santry
 Rick Schwab
 Theresa Schwab
 Kathy Shaulis
 Madelon Sheedy
 Bruce Shirey
 Paul Shumaker

Shirley Shumaker
 Scott Sinemus
 Pat Slack
 Ed Soisson
 Cookie Soisson
 Pam Stablein
 John Stein
 Bob Stevenson
 Renee Stevenson
 Ashley Stevenson
 Katie Strevig
 Donna Tidwell
 Sue Toy
 Dennis Ulery
 Union Mission Men
 Sharon Vito-McCue
 Ashley Gay Vocco
 Gay Wasserman
 Ginny Widich
 Jason Widich
 Susan Williams
 Sarah Wilson
 Susan Woolridge
 Kelly Yoder
 Marty Zueger

Teen Volunteers

Michou Jablunovsky
 Saskia Mentor
 Julie Mikesell
 Libby Murphy
 Marygretta Sabo
 Genevieve Sabo
 Clair Sirofchuck
 LV High School Junior ROTC
 LVHS National Honor Students
 Outside In Students
 Rolling Rock Hunt Pony Club



Michou Jablunovsky & Clair Sirofchuck enjoy a stroll during the August Living History Weekend.

Student Intern

Last summer, we were fortunate to have the assistance of **Hannah Ciocco** of Latrobe who is a student at Elizabethtown College majoring in Religious Studies and History. Hannah helped with many activities throughout the summer including leading tours of Compass Inn Museum and verifying the contents of each room of the museum.



Hannah in her costume leads an activity during Children's Living History weekend. The 2017 Children's Living History Weekend is June 17 & 18, 2017. The Annual "Hammer In" will also be June 17.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR VOLUNTEER FAMILY?

No experience needed. There will be an **informational meeting Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 pm at Compass Inn Museum.** Contact Malori Stevenson at 724-238-4983 or mstevenson@compassinn.org to register or for more information.

ENGAGING KIDS WITH HISTORY

Compass Inn Museum’s “Engaging Kids with History” educational initiatives are designed to make history come alive by getting children and families involved in the actual “doing of history” and ultimately developing a lifelong love of learning while making history relevant and FUN! Throughout the year, the Historical Society offers a variety of hands-on, age appropriate enrichment programs and school field trips.

STAGECOACH ADVENTURERS

During a weeklong day camp last summer, kids grades fourth through sixth explored and experienced what life was like at a stagecoach stop along the original Pittsburgh to



Ed Appleby shows Nick the fun and skill of hammering iron.

Philadelphia Turnpike. It was a wonderful week as the kids engaged in day to day chores and activities like the Armor family did when stagecoach travelers visited Compass Inn. Cooking a full meal using the open hearth and beehive oven was a real treat. Experiencing what it was like to apprentice with a blacksmith and a tinsmith were highlights of the week along with building a model stagecoach and a log cabin. Getting to know new friends while learning 19th century dances and playing traditional games was great fun. Another highlight of the week was creating and starring in a play about the perils of stagecoach travel to and from Compass Inn. The group enjoyed a visit with a Civil War reenactor who taught them about his ancestors as well as Rachel and Robert Armor’s sons, all who served in the American Civil War Signal Corp.

Philadelph



Our Stagecoach Adventurers ready to perform their play for their parents.

Ed Appleby-blacksmith; **Jim McConnell**-Signal Corp reenactor; **Roy & Sharon Phillips**-tinsmith; **Theresa Rohall**-cooking; **Ashley Stevenson**-dancing; **Jackie McClane**; **Gloria Nelson** and **Renee Stevenson** assisted **Malori Stevenson**. Stagecoach Adventurers was supported by the **Thoburn Foundation for Education**, **Joan and Ted Mudge**, **Janice and Steve Gooder**, and an anonymous donor.



Back Row: Roy & Sharon Phillips, Jackie McClane, Malori Stevenson & Gloria Nelson. Front Row: Nick, Madison, Mackenzie, David, Conor & Aidan.

STAGECOACH ADVENTURERS 2017

Dates July 17 - 21/ 9 am - 2:30 pm daily
Cost \$110 –LVHS members /\$125 non-members
 \$25 sibling discount

For information about the 2017 Stagecoach Adventurers Camp registration, contact Malori at 724-238-4983 or mstevenson@compassinn.org. Scholarships available. Contact the LVHS Office for an application, 724-238-6818.

LITTLE EXPLORERS DAILY ADVENTURES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Over the past few years, children 3 to 5 years of age have explored Compass Inn Museum through stories, imaginative play, and other activities with **Malori Stevenson and Cathy Cummings** our Business Office Coordinator and former preschool teacher.



Cathy Cummings shows our Little Explorers, Maddy, Brock, & Susannah, how cornbread was made in a 1820’s beehive oven.



Cathy Cummings & Malori Stevenson enjoy story time in the stagecoach barn with Margo, Sadie, Evan, & Brynn.

LITTLE EXPLORERS DAILY ADVENTURES 2017

Dates Thurs, April 6, 13, 20, & 27 / 9:30 to 11:00 am
Cost \$7/session; sign up for all four times, receive a \$5 discount; \$5 sibling discount applies.
 Discounts cannot be combined

For information about registration, contact Malori at 724-238-4983 or mstevenson@compassinn.org.

YOUNG HISTORIANS

Young Historians, a six week Saturday morning program, brought history alive and offered an in depth, fun learning environment for eighth through twelfth grade students to investigate preserving local history through interaction with archivists, craftsmen, historians and interpreters. LVHS Young Historians, the next generation of preservation enthusiasts, had the opportunity to discover history while focusing on skill development in research, writing, public speaking, interpretation, and more. Young Historians was supported by grants from the **Ligonier Valley Education Trust** and the **Thoburn Foundation for Education**.



Young Historians, MaryGreta and Julie, learn how to make book boxes to properly preserve old journals.

UNMENTIONABLES IN THE VALLEY: AN INTIMATE DISPLAY

The Ligonier Valley Historical Society “undressed history” with its small exhibition at Compass Inn Museum this past summer, *Unmentionables in the Valley: An Intimate Display*. *Unmentionables* featured items from four different fashion periods: mid to late 1700’s, the Regency Era (1790-1820), the Romantic Era (1820-1860), and the Victorian Era (1850-1869). It answered the question, “what lies beneath the various clothing of the women of yesteryear?” Corded petticoats, chemises, drawers, hoops, corsets and more were on display from June 14 to October 16, 2016.

Undergarments or underpinnings are both a necessity and an indulgence. Even while having a functional role, it tells much about social mores and shifting views of the body. For many centuries in history, underpinnings aided women in shaping their bodies for the fashions of the day. It was not until the 1930’s that women picked underwear that fit them as opposed to making their bodies conform to the underwear. Featuring undergarments from the four eras that Compass Inn was in operation gave an interesting perspective on how society changed during the 19th Century and how social and economic context strongly influenced fashion. The Society extends a very heartfelt thank you to **Angela and Bruce Henderson, Mary Lou Mitchell, Gloria Nelson, Pat Slack, Michelle Gay, Cathy Cummings, Malori Stevenson, Theresa Gay Rohall, Lisa Rauscher, Becky Kruger, Diana Thompson, and the Kerr Memorial Museum** for making this exhibit a possibility.



Drawers, Shifts, Petticoats & Stays.

DEATH BY PETTICOAT

American History Myths Debunked. The Whole Truth about American History Myths You've Heard at Museums.



Mary Miley Theobald signs books after her lecture.

In the late fall of 2015, Ligonier Valley Historical Society hosted historian and author of *Death by Petticoat*, **Mary Miley Theobald**, for an illuminating and illustrated lecture of historic myths versus facts and book signing in the **Ligonier Town Hall Auditorium**. Prior to her lecture, Mary was on hand for late afternoon teatime with nearly 50 Historical Society members and friends. **Sharon Vito-McCue, Gay Wasserman, Karen O'Connor, Deb Honkus, Donna Tidwell, Linda Santry, and Christin Mizikar** served a variety of delicious teas along with robust, scrumptious treats. Mary Miley Theobald’s visit was supported by the R.K Mellon Family Foundation, Bruce Henderson, and H & Pat Childs. Copies of Mary’s book are available for purchase at Compass Inn Museum Shop.

To learn more about Mary, visit <http://marymileytheobald.com>.

SATURDAY LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

During 2016, a series of informal Saturday lectures were held in the historic setting of the Common Room at Compass Inn Museum.

Your Story, Our History: How to Collect and Preserve Family Memories presented by Eliza Newland

How Did They, You Know: Privacy and Privies in the 19th Century presented by

Malori Stevenson

The Changing Silhouette of Women’s Fashion & the Statements It Made

presented by Theresa Gay Rohall

For spring 2017, two Saturday lectures and one hands-on workshop are scheduled.

Romance, Rights & Rebellion: The History of Love and Marriage

presented by Malori Stevenson, March 18, 10 am, \$10/person

Kids These Days: History of Childhood

presented by Malori Stevenson, April 22 at 10 am, \$10/person

Blacksmith Workshop presented by Ed Appleby of Crafty Apple Forge, April 22 at

9 am in the Blacksmith Shop. \$45/person

Preregistration is required for Blacksmith Workshop. Walk-ins welcome for lectures

Contact Malori Stevenson at 724-238-4983 or mstevenson@compassinn.org to register



Attending Common Room lectures gives one the feeling of stepping back in time when the inn was the social hub of the community.

AN EVENING WITH. . .

Several concerts were held on the grounds of Compass Inn Museum. Guests were treated to the sounds of **StringTyme** and **THE SIX**. Plans are underway to for more concerts during the 2017 season. We thank **Markosky Engineering** for sponsoring our 2017 Evening with . . . Concert Series. Details will be announced in the first e-newsletter.

ANNUAL MEETING

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, mid-June 2016, the Ligonier Valley Historical Society hosted its 52nd Annual Meeting under a tent on the historic grounds of Compass Inn Museum. President **Sean Murphy** welcomed the 56 members present, gave a brief update, and introduced newly elected directors **George Conte and Jim O'Connor** who will serve their first 3-year term replacing outgoing members **Sean Murphy and Karen O'Connor**. Elected to serve their second 3-year term were **Jason Ament and Susan Woolridge**.

After enjoying a delicious, al fresco meal prepared and served by **Terry Speals** from his *Speals on Wheels* Food Truck, **Theresa Gay Rohall** addressed the membership and thanked Karen and Sean for their many years of service and dedication. We will truly miss them but they will not be leaving active duty to the organization as they will still volunteer in other ways. Theresa then named long-term volunteers **Mary Jo Culbertson as the Society's "Volunteer of the Year" and Sue Toy as Compass Inn Museum's "Docent of the Year"**. In addition, she recognized **Renee and Bob Stevenson and Ron Rohall** for all their support of the organization and staff over the last year. The meeting ended with a presentation by Innkeeper and Program Coordinator, **Malori Stevenson**, and the unveiling of *Unmentionables in the Valley: An Intimated Display*.

We extend a special thank you to **Cathy Cummings, Michelle Gay, Karen O'Connor, Gay Wasserman, Susan Woolridge, and Painted Fern Garden & Gifts** for making the 2017 Annual Meeting a great success.



Volunteer of the Year, Mary Jo Culbertson (left) and Docent of the Year Sue Toy (right) receiving their awards from Theresa Gay Rohall.



Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 53rd Ligonier Valley Historical Society Annual Meeting Sunday, June 11, 2017. Invitations will be mail late April.

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES:

A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF RELICS & ANTIQUITIES

In an article in the "Pittsburg Leader" dated January 29, 1905, the author states: "In the quaint and historic little town of Laughlin, in the Ligonier Valley there is one of the most unique, and probably the best, collection of relics of local antiquity to be found in the state of Pennsylvania. So far as is known there is not another of similar character in the country." The article also states that **Ridpath, a famous 19th century historian's primary reason for visiting the Ligonier Valley was to study the unique character of the Armor Museum and the records of the last days of Fort Ligonier.**



C.L. Armor, aka Charles Logan Armor or Charlie Armor, was born in 1855. He was the grandson of Robert and Rachel Armor, who in 1814 purchased the 1799 drovers inn built by Phillip Freeman. They called the expanded stage house "The Compass". In 1862, the inn closed but the family continued to live there. Charles and his brother, Frank, eventually turned the site into a museum in the 1880's.

By the time Charlie died at age 78, he and his ancestors had filled the old inn and three or four large barns to form a "cabinet of curiosities" collection. With his death in 1933, some of Charlie's collection was donated to the Westmoreland Fayette Historical Society, a branch of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, that later became **West Overton Village**.

In late 2016, a number of Charlie's items were transferred from West Overton to the Society. Therefore, with these items and ones already housed at the Society, we are planning an exhibit to open mid-June 2017 featuring Charles and his family's treasures while showcasing the lives of the men and women who settled in the area titled, *Cabinet of Curiosities: A Unique Collection of Relics & Antiquities*.

IN MEMORY OF

Over the last several years, we have lost cherished members of the Historical Society community. We extend our deepest heartfelt sympathy to the friends and families of these Ligonier Valley Historical Society members and friends.

- Mrs. Doris Campbell Davis
- Mr. George "Skeeter" Craig
- Mrs. Clare Avolio
- Ms. Leila Warheit
- Mr. Frank E. Santry
- Mrs. Ann Kunkle
- Ms. Marge Cartwright
- Mr. James P. Davis, Sr.
- Mrs. Alice Stufft
- Ms. Louise "Corky" Barnhart



Sharon Detar of Connections Café serves her delicious, healthy salads to Gladys Light at the 2016 *Tastes of the Town*.



The unique acoustic vibes of **The Gypsy Knights** was a highlight of *History with a Purpose: Secrets of the Tavern*.



Aidan, Conor, Nick & Mackenzie try their hand at cooking 19th century style.



1848 Howe sewing machine donated by **Mary Lou Mitchell** was part of *Unmentionables in the Valley: An Intimate Display Exhibit*.



Victorian corset c.1890 that was on loan from the collection of the **Kerr Memorial Museum** featured in *Unmentionables in the Valley: An Intimate Display Exhibit*.



Olive & George Conte learn the finer points of Tilt from **Bob Cummings** during *History with a Purpose*.



Volunteer docents enjoy a well deserved luncheon after 687 students visited Compass Inn Museum for field trips during May 2016.



Tom Mizikar & Sharon Vito-McCue lead the friends of **Deb Honkus & Mike Tumberger** on the Ligonier History & Restaurant tour-an Auction item from the 2016 *Festival of Lights*.

Participating eateries were Crumpets & Tea, The Kitchen on Main, Connections Café, Myriam's Table, Carol & Dave's Roadhouse, & The Ligonier Sweet Shop.



Former LVHS Directors Polly (Keaton) Artuso & Lisa Hays visit with Theresa at the 25th Anniversary celebration of the *Tastes of the Town*.



Learning 18th & 19th Century dances during Stagecoach Adventurers with **Ashely Stevenson** (far left).



Jim Davis, Jr. painting the Serving Kitchen in Compass in Museum

The Mission of the Ligonier Valley Historical Society is to discover, collect, preserve, and disseminate any material which will help to establish or illustrate exploration, settlement development and general history of the Ligonier Valley area . . .

Connect with LVHS & Compass Inn Museum on Social Media outlets.



Captain **Scott Henry** readies his regiment of **Proctor's Militia** reenactors for a musket demonstration during the August Living History Weekend.



Playing Nine Pins is a favorite activity during school field trips & other events at the Museum



Artisans **Sharon & Roy Philips** teach their craft to the kids who participated in Stagecoach Adventurers.



Over 30 blacksmiths from the **Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmith Association** and **Fort Allen Antique Farm Equipment Association** fired up their forges to demonstrate their craft during the June Children's Living History Weekend at Compass Inn Museum. Items created throughout the day were donated to LVHS and sold in the Museum Shop. Join them again at Compass Inn Museum Saturday, June 17, 2017.



Malori Stevenson helps, **Aidan, Conor & Madison** build a log cabin.



There is always something cooking in the cookhouse during Living History Weekends and Harvest Candlelight Tours at Compass Inn Museum. Plan to visit and see what's cooking.



"Frankin Homie" & "Batty" entered by **Michael & Ian Hillen** were the 1st & 2nd Place Youth Winners of the First Annual Halloween Hauntings Pumpkin Carving Contest.



During the July Living History Weekend visitors encountered a variety of folk artists demonstrating crafts of days gone by and storyteller **Joanna Demarest** as she spun historic tales.



Spring means school field trips to Compass Inn Museum.



Blacksmith **Greg Price** of Soap Hollow Forge demonstrates during the June Hammer In.



Proctor's Militia Reenactors **Don & Lisa Rauscher** along with **Louise Bates** enjoy visiting with attendees during the July Living History Weekend.

... and, to demonstrate a living history of life during the 18th and 19th century through the operation of Compass Inn Museum.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Our members are our foundation. It's impossible to overstate the importance of membership to Ligonier Valley Historical Society. Quite simply, as a membership organization, LVHS wouldn't exist without our members. Period. Therefore, we wholeheartedly thank each and every one of them for their dedication and continued support.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ambrose	Mrs. Patricia Hayes	Ms. Barbara Nalle
Mr. Jason Ament & Mr. Scott Sinemus	Ms. Lisa Hays	Ms. Gloria Nelson
Mr. Robert J. Armstrong	Mrs. Mary Ann Hegan	Ms. Carol Nicely
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HISTORY WITH A PURPOSE

What better to do on a beautiful midsummer's night than to journey back in time and visit the romantic days of the 1830's? That is exactly what attendees did at the Ligonier Valley Historical Society's new event, *History with a Purpose: Secrets of the Tavern*. It was an evening where guests left their 21st century troubles and cares behind, grabbed a mug of beer, and encountered Compass Inn as it was in the heyday of stagecoach travel. . . the social hub of the community, where news was spread, bets were placed, secrets were told, and merriment was made.

This innovative fundraising event supporting the Historical Society's *Save Our Stagecoach* fund took place at the historic Compass Inn Museum on July 30, 2016. It was a healthy mix of philanthropy and fun with entertaining and lively networking that was "not your grandmother's" museum experience. "*History with a Purpose: Secrets of the Tavern* encouraged attendees to become participants rather than spectators through one on one interaction with artifacts, people, and multiple viewpoints," said **Innkeeper and Program Coordinator, Malori Stevenson**.

"It was a great way to give back to the community by helping the Historical Society raise funds to restore its stagecoach. . . keeping history alive in our community," says **Michael Reese of Loyalhanna Wealth Advisors of Janney Montgomery Scott** and one of the **Visionaries of The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County**. The Visionaries are future philanthropic



Lauren Buches of Westmoreland Heritage celebrates her birthday with friends at *History with a Purpose: Secrets of the Tavern*.

leaders with the desire to make a lasting impact on Westmoreland County today. Each year the Visionaries hold a competition to award the grand prize V-Grant to a local nonprofit organization in Westmoreland County who is actively engaging young professionals in their mission in unique, innovative, and high-impactful ways. "We are proud to say that during the fourth-annual V-Grant Pitch Party the Society, through a popular vote, won the grand prize of nearly \$3,000 for our *History with a Purpose* submission," said **Executive Director, Theresa Gay Rohall**.

Excitement and anticipation were in the air with the tapping of a keg of beer from **Four Seasons Brewing Company**. Revelers lifted their glass in celebration with innkeeper Robert Armor and his wife Rachel as they sampled the hardy rustic fare and other libations. Through a series spirited authentic games, puzzles and challenges, attendees discovered the secrets of the past while enjoying the present. Joy was unfettered and laughter unchained



After an evening of fun, attendees mellowed under the tent with the acoustic vibes of **The Gypsy Knights** while savoring cuisine that featured recipes and ingredients inspired by the 18th & 19th century. Many thanks to our sponsors **Ligonier Giant Eagle & Janney Montgomery Scott**, and to **Michael Reese** and **Matt Faccenda** for helping us make this unique event possible.

all to benefit the *Save Our Stagecoach* project. *History with a Purpose: Secrets of the Tavern* also included live music by **The Gypsy Knights**, a bonfire, prizes, and selfies with a stagecoach, secrets, and more.



Compass Inn Museum is an authentically restored stagecoach stop which served as a stopping place for drovers and stagecoach travelers on the original Philadelphia-Pittsburgh Turnpike. The earliest part of the Inn is constructed of logs with a stone wing added in 1820 and is furnished with an extensive collection of period pieces. "While George Washington never stayed at Compass Inn, other noteworthy folks such as Henry Clay, William Henry Harrison, Andrew Jackson, and President elect Zachary Tyler came through here," explains Malori.

"The years of being on public display have taken a toll on our stagecoach and now it is time to restore it to its former beauty," says Theresa. "Which is why we are planning the next *History with a Purpose* for July of 2017 centered on a stagecoach robbery."

"We are excited about this event and our project. We challenge the community to join us for this fun event and help us move our Stagecoach project forward. In 2022, Compass Inn Museum will celebrate 50 years of operation and we want the stagecoach to be restored for that significant milestone," adds Theresa.



Miniature Stagecoach Races were held in the bed of the Studebaker wagon. Each race winner took home 50% of the take for that race.

GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT

We are most grateful to all the Businesses, Corporations, Foundations, and Trusts who through their generous, ongoing support have helped us build organizational capacity to achieve our goal of being considered one of the vital educational, research, and cultural attractions in the region.

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS FOUNDATIONS WHO HELPED THE SOCIETY EXCEED ITS FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR THE BASIC STRATEGIC PLAN.

- Allegheny Foundation
- Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation
- Laurel Foundation
- Ligonier Valley Endowment
- Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation
- Richard King Mellon Foundation

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- Conti Design Lifestyle Gallery
- Covington Investment Advisors Inc.
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- Legacy Wealth Solution Inc.
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- Ligonier Giant Eagle
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- Loyalhanna Realty
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- Somerset Trust Company
- Turjan Con Co. Inc.
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- William Dickson Industries Inc.
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- Community Foundation of Westmoreland County
- Capacity Through Technology Grant Initiative
- Honkus Zollinger Foundation
- Laurel Highlands Visitor's Bureau
- Westmoreland County Tourism Program
- Ligonier Valley Education Trust
- Ligonier Valley Endowment
- Old Joe Club Charities
- PA Historical and Museum Commission
- Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance
- R.K. Mellon Family Foundation
- Robertshaw Foundation
- Roy A. Hunt Foundation
- The Thoburn Foundation for Education
- The Visionaries of the
- Community Foundation of Westmoreland County
- Walton Family Foundation
- Whetzel Family Trust

ON THE GO . . .

From September 14-17, 2016, LVHS Executive Director, Theresa Gay Rohall and Innkeeper and Program Coordinator, Malori Stevenson ventured to **Detroit, Michigan to attend the American Association for State and Local History's Annual Meeting.** The meeting's theme was *The Spirit of Rebirth*. Just like the host city that is celebrating its rich heritage while shaping its future, Ligonier Valley Historical Society and Compass Inn Museum are embarking on the same. Malori and Theresa presented a poster titled **Revitalization: Honoring the Past** to students and associates from around the country during the **National Council on Public History's Poster Session.** They also attended many informative sessions such as Small Museums, Big Impact! Change Agents; Leading Organization Rebirth; Don't Get Chopped! Cutting Through the Obstacles to Great Food Interpretation; Putting Family Back into Family Programming; and New Uses for Old Stuff: Early Learning as a Means to Community Engagement.



COMPASS INN MUSEUM

New logos and promotional materials were designed by Fireman Creative.

Watch your mail, membership renewals will be sent soon for those whose memberships are expiring soon.

DONORS COUNT

What can we say? Donors are an essential part of all our programming. Without you, we could not fulfill our mission. So, we thank all of you for your generosity from the bottom of our hearts and we are most grateful that you find the Historical Society and Compass Inn Museum worthy of your support.

Toni & John Aloe	Linda & Lynn Ferraro	Patsy & Paul Kennedy	Lisa & Bill Pieringer
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Carol A. Fenton		Susan & Jim Parker	Susan Woolridge
		Peggy Patterson	Alice Troy & Stephen Yslas

NAMED FUNDS

JP DAVIS MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE FUND established to honor **James P. Davis, Sr.** March 2015. Jim Davis Sr. along with his son **James P. Davis, Jr.** owned and operated JP Davis Painting Company. Interior restoration and painting of the Compass Inn Museum was the last project Jim, Sr. was working on when he passed away February 3, 2015. He was a caring man who had a great love for the historical buildings in the Valley. One of the last things he said to Theresa Gay Rohall, then new Executive Director, was that the Society should establish a maintenance fund in order to tackle minor maintenance issues as they arise so they do not become larger issues. Therefore, we have done just that and we have named the Fund in honor of Jim, Sr. If you are interested in donating to the Fund, please make checks payable to the Ligonier Valley Historical Society with JP Davis Maintenance Fund on the memo line.

KELTZ CEMETERY FUND established December 2016. One of the primary reasons the Women's Committee of Ligonier founded the Historical Society in 1962 was to help maintain historic cemeteries in the Valley. Over the years, Ligonier Township gave an annual grant to the Society to help defray mowing costs. Several years ago, the grant opportunity no longer was possible. Last summer, **Jarred Meharey**, a Boy Scout with Troop 375, chose an Eagle Scout Project that would help the Society improve the Keltz Cemetery in Darlington. With the help of his troop members, his family, **Don Gilmore**, and **Kevin Rose**, Jarred is embarking on removing graffiti at bottom of steps, weeding the hillside, repairing the fence, resetting headstones, documenting the headstones by making pencil tracings, updating a CAD file he created, and filling in holes around settled graves. He also hopes to document additional information about the Cemetery and place a historical marker. If you wish to donate to the project, please make checks payable to the Ligonier Valley Historical Society, with Keltz Cemetery Fund on the memo line. In addition, if you have historical information about the Keltz Cemetery to share with Jarred, please call Theresa at the Society (724-238-6818).



Dan & Jared Meharey, Don Gilmore & Terry Barr at the Keltz Cemetery just after Don volunteered his time to mow last summer.

IN-KIND GIFTS COUNT

Throughout the year, Ligonier Valley Historical Society offers a variety of unique events, programs, tours, and school field trips. Tastings, raffles, auctions, and more are part of events like our Festival of Lights, Tastes of the Town, and History with a Purpose. From donating gift certificates to decorating Christmas trees and more, we are so fortunate to be part of a community that graciously helps us with each and every event. Please join us in thanking your neighbors and friends as well as supporting the businesses who make our community a wonderful place to call home.

Abigail's Coffeehouse	Foggy Mountain Lodge	The Road Toad	Smail Auto Group
Allegory Gallery	Forks Inn	Jacqui McGregor	Song of Sixpence
Jason Ament	Four Seasons Brewing Company	Merjo's on Main Street	Speals on Wheels
American Indian Jewelry	Fox's Pizza Den	Michelle's Catering	St Mortiz Building Services
Amica	G Squared Gallery	Mill Creek Furniture	Renee & Robert Stevenson
Anna Lynn Boutique	Gerty's Attic Antiques	Tom Mizikar	Subway
Ed Appleby-Crafty Apple Forge	Girl Scout Troop 46422/40473	Mommy Gear	Swansdowne Antiques
Carla Arnone	Terry Graft	Joy Monticue	Table 105
Baily Insurance Agency	Graham's Antique Mall	Sean Murphy	The Black Bunny
Beth, Lisa, Deb	Grandview Stables	Barbara Nalle	The Cedars - Antiochian Village & Conference Center
Victoria Baird	Greater Latrobe Laurel Valley Chamber of Commerce	Scotty Nelson	The Country Cupboard
Lori Barretta	Green Gables	Cub Pack 123, New Florence	The Diamond Café
Beanery Writers	Green Top Fundraising	Wolf Pack 123, New Florence	The Finishing Touch
Becky Bell	Kim & Kendal Haines	Arrow of Light Pack 123, New Florence	The Frame Place
Bethlen Home Activity Dept.	Darla Hall	Weblos Pack 123, New Florence	The Gray Goose
Betsy's of Ligonier	Jake Hall	Bear Pack 123, New Florence	The Karat Shoppe
Bradley Bay Butter Tarts	Mary Ann Hegan	BSA Troop 123, New Florence	The Kitchen on Main
Linda Brown	Ann Hewat	Karen & Jim O'Connor	The Matchmakers
Cairns Ligonier Ligonier Agway	Holiday Inn Monroeville	Omni Bedford Springs Resort	The Pie Shoppe
CareyAuctions.com	Holy Trinity School	On the Diamond Antiques	The Paper House
Carol & Dave's Roadhouse	Hyde Park Restaurant Group	Marcia Orr	The Pier at Sharky's
Caroselli, Beachler, McTeirnan & Coleman	Idlewild & SoakZone	PA Room & Lig Valley Library	The Road Toad
J. P. Davis Painting	Jones Brewing Company	Painted Fern Gallery	The Stationary Shop
Delta Celi	Michelle Kent	Palace Theater	The Steel Wheel Grill
Celtic Culture	Gene Kravits	Arnold Palmer	The Stone House Restaurant & Country Inn
Champion Lakes Golf Club	Latrobe Art Center	PBW	The Strawberry Crow
Kiwanis Club of Ligonier	Latrobe Country Club	Pittsburgh Area Artist Blacksmiths Association	The Toy Box
Connections Café	Laurel Mountain Ski Resort	Pleasant Grove U.M. Church	The Wicked Google
Conte Designs Lifestyle Gallery	Amy Leipold	Shelley Poli	Donna Tidwell
Cool Springs Express	LHM Designs	Shelley Poli Designs	Tree House in Ligonier
Covenant Preschool	Jessica Light	Jeff Poole	Trillium Spa
Crazy Cupcake Bakery	Ligonier Country Club Pro Shop	Post & Rail Men's Shop	Truffles Antiquities at Ligonier
Creative Differences	Ligonier Country Inn	Rachel's Ligonier Floral	Diane Urban
Mary Jo Culbertson	Ligonier Gardens	Rep. Mike Reese	Valley Players of Ligonier
Cathy Cummings	Ligonier Giant Eagle	RK Mellon Elementary School	Sharon Vito-McCue
Stan & Deb Cycak	Ligonier Outfitters	Rachel Roehrig	Warrior King Pastries
Darlington Inn	Ligonier Sweet Shop	Ron Rohall	Gay Wasserman
Glenda Dickson	Ligonier Tavern	Rolling Rock Club	Weeders & Seeders Garden Club, Ligonier
Donovan Veterinary Clinic	LV Chamber of Commerce	Rosalie Joio's Little Italy	Westmoreland Heritage
Dream Makers Weddings	LV Railroad Association	SAMA Garden Party Committee	Wicklów Logistics Inc.
D's Restaurant	LV YMCA Child Development	Scamps Toffee & Sweet	WildFire Bread
Eastwood Inn	Living Treasures Animal Park	Theresa Schwab	William Dickson Industries
Encore Emporium of Ligonier	Loyalhanna Veterinary Clinic	Second Chapter Books	Williamsburg Winery
Equine Chic	Loyalhanna Watershed Association	Seven Springs Mountain Resort	Kelly Yoder
Erica Knuckles-Fort Ligonier	Main Exhibit Gallery	Carol Sheats	
Faranda Farm	Martin's Specialty Shop	Cathy Sherman Photography	
Fat Daddy's Restaurant	Angela & Jim McDonnell	Shirley & Paul Shumaker	
First Wok	Ron McDowell	Pat Slack	
Flavor's Café			

ADDED TO OUR COLLECTION

Over the last few years, a number of documents and objects were added to our collection. Some items are donated for display purposes only and others are donated as hands-on teaching tools for use at Compass Inn Museum.

- Becky Bell**, miniature stagecoach model
- Emma Jane Cairns**, Victorian double horned sidesaddle, blanket, girth and articles related to sidesaddles
- Alma Calo**, 30 books and various notebook slides and photographs of the early days of Compass Inn Museum
- Hannah Ciocco**, 19th century coal bucket and cast iron cobbler stand
- Jane G. Clawson**, collection of 27 authentic 19th century objects and reproductions for use as teaching tools
- Judy Dobbins**, scrapbook from mid to late 1800's pasted in 1817 ledger of Ligonier resident Joseph Moorhead
- Donald L. Green**, metal and enamel button
- Susan B. Larsen**, 200+ authentic 19th century objects and reproductions for use as hands-on teaching tools
- Mary Lou Mitchell**, 1848 Howe Sewing Machine
- Gertrude Myers**, 14 vintage postcards of the region, mid-1930's photo of Idlewild Park entrance, shirt and pictures from Jazz on the Grass and living history programs at Compass Inn Museum
- Bob Pore**, two sets of Sleigh Bells
- Tom Sandretto**, 1850's 5 foot blacksmith vice
- Bruce Shirey**, vintage photos of Ligonier buildings and archeological dig at Compass Inn Museum
- Beverly Struble**, early 20th century wool spats

Ligonier Valley Historical Society welcomes donations and accepts material that relates directly to our mission, see pages 8 and 9. Interested donors are encouraged to contact appropriate collections staff to discuss their items proposed for donation to the Society's permanent collections. Upon initial assessment, collections staff will indicate whether there is an interest to receive the items offered for donation. Please direct questions concerning donations and the donation process to Executive Director, Theresa Gay Rohall.

WE ARE MEMBERS OF...

- American Alliance of Museums
- American Association for State and Local History
- Fort Ligonier Association
- PA Museums
- Great Latrobe-Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (GLLV)
- Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau
- Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC)

IN THE COMMUNITY

- LVCC - 2016 Ice Festival (Stagecoach Sculpture)
- GLLV Business After Hours
- Fort Ligonier Day Parade - 2016
- LLVCC - 2017 Ice Festival (Conestoga Wagon)

Ernie DeMartino of DeMartino Ice Company poses with Westmoreland County Commissioner Ted Kopas, his wife April, & their children Alex, Quinn, Jack & Teddy.



Malori Stevenson talks with a patron at the GLLV Business After Hours event, May 2, 2016. LVHS was a featured nonprofit.

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AND OUR STAFF

- Theresa Gay Rohall
Executive Director
- Malori Stevenson
Program Coordinator / Innkeeper
- Cathy Cummings
Business Office Coordinator

C. L. ARMOR COLLECTION ADDED



Jim McConnell helps deliver C. L. Armor's collection.

During the fall of 2016, Ligonier Valley Historical Society and **West Overton Village and Museum in Scottdale** collaborated to ensure a 57-piece collection of small farming hand tools and general housewares from the mid-19th century, once belonging to **Charles Logan Armor**, was showcased in the most appropriate place and in the best way possible. Charlie Armor was born in 1855. He was the grandson of Robert and Rachel Armor who in the early 1800s purchased the 1799 drovers inn built by Phillip Freeman now known as Compass Inn Museum.

The Directors of both facilities worked together to ensure that the transfer of the collection was conducted in accordance with collection policies of both Ligonier Valley Historical Society and West Overton and in line with all National Standards and Best Practice for Museums.



LIGONIER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

— *Keeping Our History Alive* —

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Compass Inn Museum opens for the 2017 Season

Free Museum Day, Sunday, May 7, 10 am - 4 pm

Regular Hours of Operation

Tuesday -Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm & Sundays 1- 5 pm

Living History Weekends

3rd Weekend of June, July, & August

Halloween Hauntings Storytelling

October 21, 28 & 29, 6 - 9 pm

Harvest Candlelight Tours

Saturdays in November, 3 - 7 pm

Holiday Candlelight Tours

Saturdays & Sundays, November 25 - December 10, 3 - 7 pm



THE COMPASS

The Official Newsletter of the Ligonier Valley Historical Society